

URBAN DISTRIBUTION IS ONE OF THE CHALLENGES OF CITY LOGISTICS

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Freight transport has often been neglected in urban traffic management. Though it is very important for the business and life of a city, commercial traffic has never been given much attention in the transport planning process. Traffic congestion, scarcity of loading and unloading areas in city centres, and sub-optimal delivery routes negatively influence the efficiency. In addition, freight transport contributes to environmental problems and traffic congestion, as well as to safety concerns [1].

There are two dimensions to urban distribution: getting goods into the city and operating within the city, Fig. 1. In getting to the city, companies must get goods to consumers while coping with urban congestion, emissions regulations, and routing decisions and restrictions. Operating within the city, companies must deal with speed and weight limits, parking, and loading zones, all of which make urban deliveries a very frustrating experience [2].

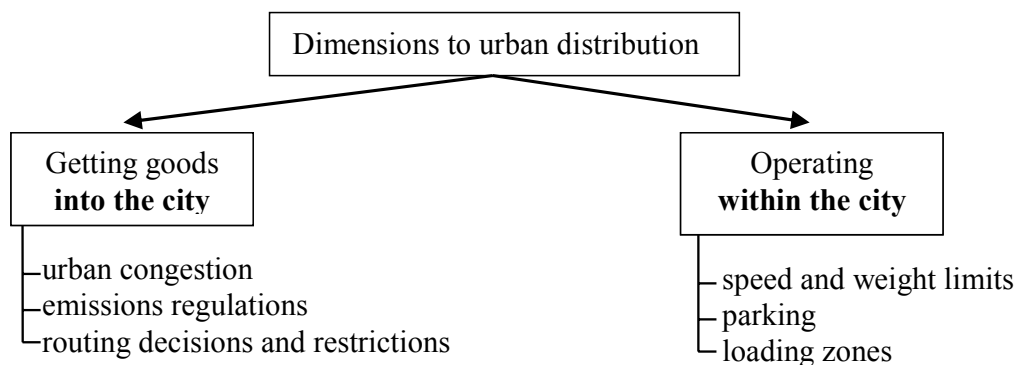


Fig. 1 – Main dimensions to urban distribution

The one of major issues of city logistics in Europe is interactions between ecology and transport process efficiency. The urban distribution challenge should considerate on the both sides: on the one hand, urban freight transportation is fundamental to serve industrial and trade activities in urban areas, ensuring their competitiveness; on the other hand, negative impacts of freight transportation should be limited.

References

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2. City Logistics Research. A Transatlantic Perspective. Summary of the First EU-U.S. Transportation Research Symposium. Transportation Research Board of the National Academies, Conference Proceedings 50, 2013, 98 P.